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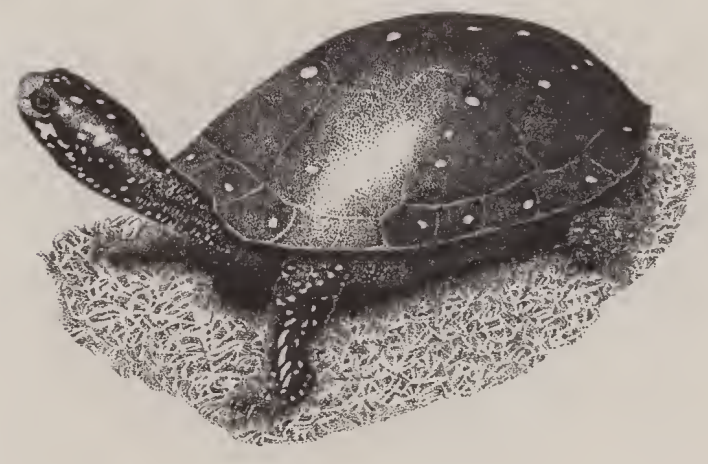
TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



A Publication Concerned With Natural History and Conservation

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

Editor
Karen McLachlan
Hamilton

Associate Editor
Fenja Brodo

Production Assistant
Sandra Gushue

Mailing Team
Louis L'Arrivee
Coordinator

Diane Lepage
Louise O'Neil
Dave Smythe
Verna Wylie

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —
President
Michael Murphy

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on Club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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Membership application, correspondence:
THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB
Box 35069, Westgate P.O. Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 1A2

Information:
(613) 722-3050

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TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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Welcome New Members

Ottawa Area

Sarah Anderson & family
Nick Austin & family
Andrew Bales
Pierre Blin
Gauruv Bose
Vivien Brownell
Richard Burke
Bill Campbell
Stephane Charpentier
Carola Courtenay
Shaeney Cybulski
David Deyette & Julie Da Silva
Angus Deschenes & family
Jon Eacrett & family
Karen Edmonds & family
Lynne Foley
Fiona Gillott
Daphne Griffiths
Paula Hines & family
Mark Kepkay & family
Marjorie Kelly
Leonard Kosub & family
Mike & Judy Lascelles
Guy Latour et famille
Violet MacLeod
Bernard Mendis
Scott Miller & family
Dave & Joan Pettit
Erik Poulsen & family
Estelle Rother
Robert & Carlyne Smith
Isaac Stethem
Jess Torrance
Mary Vandenhoff
D. Weber & family
John & Madelene White

Other Areas

Dr Charles D. Bird	Erskine AB
William Draper	Toronto ON
Ann Markham	Lawrenceville NJ
Lisa Priestley	Tofield AB
Ken Scheffler	Hamilton ON

Dave Smythe
Chair, Membership Committee
May 2005

Conservation Matters

Stan Rosenbaum

Urban Natural Areas Study and the Greenspace Master Plan
City planner Bruce Finlay met with the Conservation Committee and the Greenspace Alliance, and provided information on the City's approach towards the Greenspace Master Plan.

5309 Bank Street (South Gloucester)
When the City approved the sale of the 177 acres to the adjacent quarry, it was declared, as a condition of sale, that the new owner would be legally obliged not to make any environmental alterations prior to full environmental evaluation and rezoning approval. This constraint has been flagrantly violated by bulldozing some areas which included one site where the nationally endangered Canadian Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) was seen thriving by OFNC observers and others. In a letter to the Planning and Environment Department, dated 17 April, the Conservation Committee asked the City to deny the rezoning application and to inform the owner of his legal obligation to correct environmental damage to the greatest extent possible, to insist that such work be done, and to warn him to protect the site from future damage.

Ontario Nature Initiative on Woodlands
As part of their campaign for better protection of woodlands, Ontario Nature/ Federation of Ontario Naturalists proposed better guidelines for identifying significant woodlands. If adopted by the Ontario Government, these guidelines will place special emphasis on areas where the existing tree coverage is low, such as urban areas. OFNC President, Michael Murphy, has sent a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs asking to endorse Ontario Nature's proposal.

Environmental Assessment Study Report from Ministry of the Environment
This rather long-winded committee report prepared, for the Ministry of the Environment, emphasized streamlining the environmental assessment (EA) process for community development as well as waste management and renewable energy projects. There was little or no attention given to the EA processes as they apply to natural heritage types of land, although there is acknowledgement that comments on this aspect have been received by the committee (presumably including our comments). We have until 4 July to submit further comments.

Petrie Island
Christine Hanrahan continues to represent the OFNC with the Friends of Petrie Island. The beach area and additional parking are being built as planned, and further increase in number of visitors is expected. The Friends hope that most visitors will stay near the beach and not trample the sensitive environmental areas. These visitors may provide a strong voice in opposition to the proposal to locate a major Ottawa River bridge close to the beach.

Larose Forest
In 2004, Eleanor Thomson added considerably to the plant list she has been compiling. The updated list can be viewed at *http://www.ofnc.ca/conservation/larose/plants.html.* The Ontario Municipal Board has ordered four members of the Friends of Larose and one member of the Aboriginal community (who also appealed) to pay costs in the total amount of $15,000 to Francoscenie.

The 2005 Soirée and the Awards for 2004

Karen McLachlan Hamilton

The OFNC's 2005 soiree was delightful. There was such a large attendance that I did not have the opportunity to meet everyone. Many long standing members were present, so were some of the newer members as well as former and current Macoun Field Club members. We were treated to six Macoun presentations, several of the Club displays and many pieces of art/photography. And of course, there was plenty of refreshments.

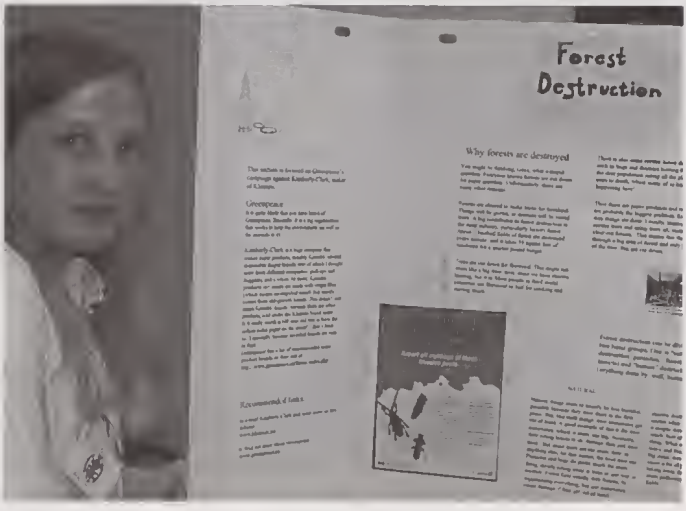
The official welcome came when Club President, Michael Murphy thanked all for coming and then began the official presentations by introducing Mary Marsh. This year was Mary's opportunity to visit with the Macoun members who prepared projects and then report back to the group. She started by giving us a brief synopsis of each project and followed with her impression of each. She commented on the immense detail all projects contained and that all were well presented. She learned something new from each presentation.

Gabriel Levac introduced everyone to one of his favourite animals, *Cepaea*

Gabriel Levac with Mary Marsh

nemoralis, also known as the Grove Snail or sometimes called the Brown Lipped Snail. His knowledge of this creature was extensive and his enthusiasm was great. He had several photos of himself with his pets and he even brought Rotten Long,, one of his more outgoing snails.

Madeleine Levac's concern for the environment was evident in her presentation on forest destruction. She explained why a forest is important to the local flora and fauna, what it provides for humans, and how a single forest can have a global impact. She gave sound arguments on the importance of conservation and the need for reducing human consumption.



Madeleine Levac with her display

Kyle Burghout's knowledge of tree taxonomy was apparent in his extensive leaf and twig collection. He not only brought living examples, but he provided a descriptive key which he readily

explained if anyone asked. His detailed illustration of the life cycle of a tree was well thought out and presented.

Anneka Burghout

The Beaver was the subject of Anneka Burghout's project. Anneka talked about Beaver biology and behaviour, and its interactions with its environment. She also gave a brief history of the animal as it relates to humans and to Canada's fur trade. She included a wonderful diorama, a real beaver tooth and several examples of this national symbol.

Robbie Stewart's interest in dinosaurs began at an early age when he received a CD about these animals. His passion for these creatures has never waned. The focus of his poster, the feathered dinosaurs, illustrated his breadth of knowledge which was well written and presented. Who knew there were dinosaurs the size of chickens.

Since this was Francis, Julien and Patrick Caron's first year as "Macouners" and they share the same interest, they decided to do a joint project. Their fascination with animal skulls began when they could choose one from a trading box. Each chose a different skull—a Bobcat, a Coyote and an Arctic Fox. Bitten by the collecting bug, they spend much of their time scouring each place they go looking for new finds. Through Mary's discussion with the boys, she learned how to clean a new skull and how to preserve old ones.

The evening continued with a report from Gabriel Levac, President of the Macoun Juniors. Gabriel gave us a glimpse of the adventures the Juniors had this year. He was particularly interested in the frogs, parasites and the arctic. In his words, everything was "interesting" and "fun."

Unfortunately Evan Munroe, President of the Intermediates, was unable to come; however, Hugo Kitching, a former Macoun member gave an impromptu talk. Hugo explained how his experience in the club helped him in his career as a Naturalist. Each time I hear Macoun members speak, I truly understand the importance of this club for the OFNC and for the future of the environment.

The 2004 OFNC awards were presented by Michael Murphy and Irwin Brodo. Each citation was read and then Michael presented the recipient with their award. This year's awards are as follows:

The Member of the Year for 2004 was Marilyn Ward. Marilyn received this award in recognition of her contributions to the Excursions and Lectures committee, to the Fletcher Wildlife Garden and for taking care of the Club's telephone messages. She also makes a special effort to personally meet new members at the monthly meeting to hand them their membership cards and Club packages. Her conscientiousness, reliability and attention to detail has helped keep the Club running smoothly.

Martha Camfield was awarded the George McGee Service Award. Her long standing association with the OFNC and her significant contributions over the many years made her a very worthy recipient of this award. Martha has been a dedicated volunteer with the Macoun Field Club where she has lead meetings, workshops and field trips. A favourite Macoun activity is one of Martha's "hands on" discoveries where each workshop is uniquely researched and supported by field collected specimens. Martha's love of nature extends to her assistance on botanical surveys and inventories which involve days of walking, collecting and listing plant species.

Martha Camfield

Andrea Howard

Andrea Howard, Education Coordinator of the Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum (EOBM), was chosen to be the first recipient of the Mary Stuart Education Award. As coordinator since its inception, Andrea developed a series of biodiversity modules which she brings to classrooms and classroom-like situations. With the aim of increasing peoples' awareness of natural history and ecological issues, her "museum in a suitcase" covers such topics as decomposition, global warming, survival, taxonomy and entomology. Through these programs, Andrea has been a positive influence on young people, teens and adults.

The Conservation award for members was awarded to Ghislaine Rozon for her struggle to preserve the portion of Larose Forest destined for development. In this fight, Ghislaine has educated herself on Canadian legalities and politics (at all levels) and in forestry, hydrology and ecology. She rallied local residents and conservation groups, revived "The Friends of Larose Forest," and increased public awareness to the importance of this natural area. Her tireless effort, even after all the disappointments, is an inspiration. A testament to her efforts happened when, just after receiving her award, Ghislaine was given a donation from someone from the audience.

The recipient of the non-member Conservation award was Barbara Barr. Barbara received this award for her efforts in influencing Regional and City planning decisions to include natural area conservation. She has played an active role within the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital and with the South Keys/Greenboro Community Association for the protection of areas such as the Montfort Woods, the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor and the Leitrim Wetlands. She has been highly effective in the protection of these areas by preparing and presenting briefs, following-up on issues and becoming an active voice for conservation.

Dr. Charles D. Bird became the OFNC's newest honorary member. Charles, an Albertan cattle farmer, was recognised for his work in botany, entomology, and for his 31 years as Associate Editor of the Canadian Field-Naturalist. To date, Charley has published close to 300 articles on a variety of topics, including mosses, lichens, and flowering plants. He was also a major contributor to book, "Alberta Butterflies." Charley continues to participate in Club publications as Associate Editor and is currently working on a catalogue of the micro-moths of southern Alberta.

Ghislaine Rozon

The evening wound down with prizes for the art, coffee, tea and several rounds of the Nature Trivia game. Here are some of the highlights of the evening.

Daphne Griffitys, Betty Campbell and Robina Bennett.

Fenja Brodo and the photo exhibit

Suzanne Deschenes and Gillian Marston, Education and Publicity.

Thank you to Rob Lee, Betty Campbell and Ken Taylor for their photos.

News from the FWG: Spring 2005

Christine Hanrahan

Spring 2005 will probably be remembered for excessive dryness, followed by soggy dampness and unseasonably cold temperatures. Nonetheless, by late April the Backyard Garden volunteers were back in force, their arrival as enduring a sign of spring as anyone could hope for.

Backyard Garden News

Work on revamping the Backyard Garden (BYG) continues with plans to extend the Woodland Walk eastward and add a stepping-stone path to form a boundary between the Grass and Woodland Gardens. By late summer six new benches will be built and placed around the garden, and the service entrance south of the building will be widened to eight feet. Plans call for an eight inch wide brick maintenance edge to separate the lawn from the Heritage, Butterfly, Rock and Grass Garden beds. Jay also notes that *"A 2½ foot tall farmer's wall will be added at the northeast boundary of the Grass Garden in the style of the existing walls"* and *"a test plot of low-mow lawn will be seeded to see if this grass seed mix from the Wildflower Farm would be a viable option for the BYG."* The entrance sign welcoming people to the BYG and explaining its purpose will most likely be in place before the garden season ends. This year is the second in the projected five year plan and as can be seen, lots of creative changes have been made and will continue to be made for some time to come. The BYG volunteers (a.k.a. the Friday Morning Crew) have their work cut out for them. New volunteers are most welcome and if you would like to help, please contact Jay at *jay_ladell@yahoo.com* or leave a message at 234-6767.

Events

The FWG participated in the annual Ottawa Wildlife Festival's "Wildlife Awareness" event which this year was held at Billings Bridge. Interest and enthusiasm was much higher than at the previous location and our exhibit garnered a lot of interest. Approximately 12 people signed up to volunteer at the garden.

We also participated in the festival's workshop on "Protecting Wild Places," held at the Canadian Museum of Nature.

Reports on two coming events, the annual FWG Native Plant sale and International Migratory Bird Day, will be in the next update.

Pond at FWG. Photo by Christine Hanrahan.

Brochures, etc.
We are trying to develop a new general information brochure on the FWG to replace the now outdated original. After several attempts by several people, Elizabeth Gammell took all versions and produced a nice, informative, attractive brochure. Watch for this starting in June.

Jay has taken the lead in developing a common look for all our printed material: brochures, newsletter, information sheets, etc. Over the next year as we update all our material, we will adopt this common look.

Signs
Thanks to Charlie Clifford's good efforts we now have a new sign by the entrance on Prince of Wales Drive. This sign looks exactly the same as the old one, but is

durable, sturdy, fresh and bright rather than careworn and neglected. We are also planning to erect a kiosk to replace the map sign by the parking lot. When completed it will hold a dispenser for our brochures and have space to add current information (events at the garden, interesting things to see, etc.). No time limit has been set for this project so I can't tell you when to expect it, but keep watching!

Dogs

In the last update I mentioned Colin Freebury's contact with many of the regular dog walkers at FWG. Several agreed that a spring clean-up to remove doggy waste would be a good thing. Accordingly, Colin with the help of Patrice, owner of Misty, arranged a date (April 16) and were at the garden bright and early with coffee, donuts, plastic gloves and bags. It was a gorgeous warm day and more than 50 people helped with the Poop Patrol. After the event, Colin prepared an interesting two page "Fletcher Dog-owners" pamphlet which he distributed to dog-owners and posted on the Map Sign by the parking lot. Since dog-walkers are perhaps our most numerous visitors, and also amongst our biggest fans, we believe this outreach was very worthwhile.

Problems

The stress of exams seems to breed the need for night-time bush parties. Each spring (and again in September) fires become a feature at the garden. While we cannot state absolutely that Carleton University students are responsible, the location of the university just across the canal from FWG, not to mention the timing of the fires, makes us very suspicious. This spring at least six fires were built, fortunately none got out of control. One very large fire pit was made and re-used several times right next to the bird feeder at the Ash Woods. Once again we remind readers that if they see anything suspicious at to please call AAFC Security at 759-1985 and the FWG at 234-6767.

Managing the Garden

Invasive species control

The battle to control invasive plants continues in 2005. The primary invaders are Dog-strangling Vine (a.k.a. Pale Swallowwort), Glossy and Common Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard, Tartarian Honeysuckle, Amur Maple and Flowering Rush. Also invasive, but of somewhat lesser concern to us for now, are Purple Loosestrife, Common Burdock, Canada Thistle, and Bull Thistle. There are of course, other alien species in the garden, but the former species are the most problematical.

Dog-strangling Vine (*Cynanchum vincetoxicum*)

In a previous update (Hanrahan 2004) I wrote about Colin Freebury and Annie Belair who set up several study plots to test different methods of (potential) control. This summer they will check their test sites for results and a report will appear in the

next FWG update.

Meanwhile, we are looking at what else we can do this year in the continuing fight to control, if not eradicate, this remarkably resilient and aggressive plant which can quickly and completely overrun natural habitats. As we did last year, we'll continue digging, pulling and mowing certain areas on a regular basis. One of the suggestions made last year was to set up several more test plots and try several control methods side by side. One technique we haven't yet tried but intend to in 2005, is rototilling. Clearly there are various problems with this. First, it won't work in areas where we have plants we want to preserve, and secondly, every bit of chopped up root crown has to be removed from the soil or it will re-sprout. However, if it can work for small areas, it could be useful.

For updates on our swallowwort work, please check the FWG website at: *http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/research/index_e.php#dsv*.

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria officinalis*)
Most of the Garlic Mustard at FWG grows in the Ash Woods. Patches are found elsewhere, but none are as extensive. For some years volunteers have consistently removed the plant from the woods and it looked like they were winning. However, this spring considerable new growth was noted in the woods and it was evident that the plant was spreading again. Control will again be undertaken—stay tuned for the next chapter in removal of this pesky plant.

Common Burdock (*Arctium minus*)
We plan to remove all but about 10% of the Common Burdock this year (a massive task—wish us luck). It has spread substantially in the last few years to the point where we can't afford to completely ignore it. Spring is a good time to try digging up the new growth before the plant gets too large when cutting is about the only viable option. Because many birds feed on burdock in the winter when other food is scarce, we have decided to leave enough plants standing for this purpose.

Buckthorn species
Both species of buckthorn grow at FWG, and both produce abundant seedlings. Each year since 2001 we have been consistently removing quantities of these shrubs. Most of the ones in the Ash Woods have now been taken out, and in 2004 an extra effort was made to remove many from the thickets around the Old Field. Our main concern is with the female (fruiting) buckthorns and in 2004 we took out some substantial shrubs which unfortunately created large gaps in the thickets. Since this area is an important nesting and roosting site for birds, we are hoping to minimize habitat disturbance by not removing all shrubs at once. Plans call for judicious removal over a period of years. We have replanted in some sections but many more

trees and shrubs are needed to replace the buckthorn and it will be some years before the new shrubs are big enough to adequately fill in the gaps. Trying to balance the needs of the wildlife attracted to the garden with the need to remove serious invasive plants, is a delicate balancing act. Thanks to Tony Denton, who oversees the buckthorn removal project, we are making progress.

Other invasive plants

We will continue to remove Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) from the pond, Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*), and a certain percentage of Manitoba Maple (*Acer negundo*) from the FWG. Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) has never been a real problem in the FWG and when we do see it, we remove it immediately. The few plants that have appeared thus far were primarily in the Old Field and near the pond.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to help us remove invasive species, plant trees, work in the BYG, or with any number of other activities, please contact the FWG (details at end of article).

The usual volunteer opportunities that will continue through to fall of 2005 are:

- *Friday morning*: Regular work in the BYG takes place.
- *Sunday morning*: Volunteers work primarily in the rest of the garden by planting, weeding out invasives, and helping with other tasks as required.
- *Sunday afternoon:* During summer months the Interpretive Centre is staffed by volunteers usually from noon to 4:00 p.m.
- *Wednesday evening*: Organized by Jay to do more of the heavy landscaping work in the BYG as well as other tasks as they arise.

Plants and Animals

Birds

The late spring delayed migration by some weeks. Red-winged Blackbirds were later than usual in the Ottawa area, and not seen at FWG until March 23. However, they were soon followed by Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Song Sparrow, and others. Our last sighting of a Great Gray Owl was on March 16 when one was found in the Ash Woods suffering from an injured eye. On the same day, a Great Horned Owl was located in the Arboretum. A month later, on April 16, a Northern Saw-whet Owl was observed by Kevin Wallace and later by many others, in the Ash Woods, our third owl species for the garden and a new bird for the list. Another new species, the Wild Turkey, was seen running into the New Woods, by Tony and Gretchen Denton. Apparently, this species was reported from the Dow's Lake area a

day or so earlier. Despite several searches, the bird wasn't found again.

American Kestrels returned March 18, and soon began checking out the nest box on the barn. On April 16, I watched the male who was carrying a rodent, fly past the nest box several times while the female watched. She then flew out and landed on a nearby tree where the male passed the rodent to her. He then sat and watched as she ate. For part of April they were very much in evidence and were noticed mating two or three times. Wilson Hum took some excellent photos including this one of the female looking out of the nest box. For more photos of kestrels, many of them taken at FWG, please see his website at: *http://www.pbase.com/golfpic/american_kestrel.*

Kestrel in nest box. Photo by Wilson Hum.

A Snowy Egret, rarely seen in Ottawa, turned up at Dow's Lake in April and stayed for eight days providing excellent views. Despite much looking and hoping, this beautiful bird was not seen from or at the FWG, and sadly was not added to our list.

Six new Tree Swallow nest boxes have been erected thus far, two by the Interpretive Centre, one on the south slope of the ravine just east of the pond, one on the south side of the pond, and two on the north slope of the pond. It didn't take long for the swallows to find and lay claim to these brand new houses. We are working on a design that we hope will be the ultimate Tree Swallow box and plan to have at least a few built this year. More swallow news next update.

Green Herons returned to FWG on May 10 and if they nest it will be for the fourth straight year! Orioles, Yellow Warblers, Eastern Kingbirds, and many more began arriving on May 10. On May 11 a Northern Mockingbird was found in the Arboretum and a Winter Wren in the Ash Woods.

The "*Birds of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden*" brochure was updated in March 2005. As always happens anytime I update this brochure, a new species is found within weeks! This time, two new species were added after the update, bringing the current total to 127 species. You can find copies of the new brochure at the Interpretive Centre.

Other Fauna

Wood Frogs were heard only a few times this spring at FWG (but abundantly in other locations). American toads began trilling in the pond on May 9 and in the ravine on May 10.

The first butterfly of the season was a Mourning Cloak on April 16, followed in early May by Cabbage Whites, and Spring Azures on May 12.

A lone muskrat was noted in the pond this spring but not relocated. Foxes continue to puzzle us by their absence, but the rodent population is clearly benefiting. A dead fox, probably from the early winter judging by its condition, was found just north of the red barn. We really miss seeing these graceful animals and hope they return. So far the signs are not promising, at least not for 2005. I hope I am wrong.

FWG Details and Contact Information

The FWG is located off Prince of Wales Drive on the Central Experimental Farm. For more information please visit the website at: *http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher.php*. There you can sign up for our free newsletter *What's Up at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden*, available electronically. Brochures about the garden are available from inside on Friday mornings from spring through fall, Sunday afternoons in the summer, or during the week June through August when we have a summer employee.

- FWG phone number: 613-234-6767.
- David Hobden, Chair, FWG Management Committee: *dhobden@magma.ca*.
- Jay Ladell, BYG Manager: *jay_ladell@yahoo.com*.
- Sandy Garland, newsletter, information about the FWG: *sgarland@magma.ca*.
- Christine Hanrahan, bird and wildlife observations: *vanessa@magma.ca*.

Acknowledgments: As always, grateful thanks to the many volunteers without whom the garden would be a very different place. Thanks also to Wilson Hum for his great photo.

References:

Hanrahan, Christine. 2004. News from the FWG: Summer 2004. *T&L* 38(4):169-178.

Annual Ottawa-Gatineau Fall Bird Count

Chris Lewis

This year's Fall Bird Count will take place from **3:00 p.m. Saturday October 15** until **3:00 p.m. Sunday October 16**. The count covers the entire Ottawa-Gatineau birding area (a 50 km radius from the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill).

The main objective is to have fun and discover what birds are out there in the fall in our region, as well as practice your bird-counting skills (perhaps as a "warm up" for the Christmas Bird Count season!). You DON'T have to be an expert birder to participate and you don't have to be out all day and night for 24 hours . . . but you DO have a great post-count compilation and dinner to look forward to on the Sunday evening (free of charge to all participants!).

For those interested in counting birds on the Ontario side, please contact Eve Ticknor at (613) 737-7551 or email *sandbird@magma.ca*. To participate on the Québec side, you may contact Daniel St-Hilaire at (819) 776-0860 or email *savannarum@videotron.ca*.

NOTE: information concerning dates and contacts are subject to change and will be finalized for the October - December 2005 issue of Trail & Landscape.

The Kaladar Cactus: Is Eastern Ontario's Only Brittle Prickly-Pear Cactus Threatened?

Ken Hancock, Stephen Darbyshire and Rob Huntley

About 12 kilometres south of the village of Kaladar on the rolling granite ridges of Lennox and Addington County in eastern Ontario is a small colony of Brittle Prickly-Pear cactus, *Opuntia fragilis* (Nutt.) Haw. Of the four species of cacti occurring in Canada, Brittle Prickly-Pear has the widest range, growing from Denman Island in the Straits of Georgia, British Columbia, eastward to Ontario and as far north as the Peace River region in Alberta and British Columbia. Mostly it is a plant of arid grasslands and prairies from central BC east to about the Brandon area in Manitoba, but it also grows on granite outcrops in the boreal forest zone in scattered locations east of Winnipeg going as far as Atikokan in western Ontario. The small colony near Kaladar is isolated from the nearest known location at Atikokan by over a thousand kilometres.

The "Kaladar cactus" was originally found by Professor W. T. MacClement of Queen's University in 1934. Awareness of the cactus and its precise location then lapsed until it was relocated in 1947 by Dr. J. M. Gillett of the Canadian Department of Agriculture. Since that time it has been studied by various people and its unusual isolated occurrence has been the subject of numerous theories. Dr. R. Beschel of Queen's University hypothesized that it is a relict of a wider Ontario distribution that was present during the warm post-glacial hypsithermal (9000-6000 yr bp). Dr. W. G. Dore of the Department of Agriculture, speculated that it was introduced by early settlers moving along the old pioneer road that passed close by. Dr. Gillett, on the other hand, thinks that it was probably introduced or escaped from cultivation in gardens at Kaladar where he also saw it growing in 1947. Whether a naturally occurring population or an introduction, the origins of the "Kaladar cactus" remain a source of controversy.

The Kaladar Hills of Lennox and Addington County contain huge areas of habitat that seem suitable for the Brittle Prickly-Pear, but has only the single known population. The main portion of this population is on the south face of a rocky knoll some 100 x 50 metres. The south face of the outcrop is broadly rounded and largely

Colony of Brittle Prickly-Pear in a dense mat of lichen. Photo by Rob Huntley.

bare except for lichens, mosses and a few herbaceous plants growing in the cracks and small hollows. In deeper cracks and toward the edges of the bare rock grow shrubs such as Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) and Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*). White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), White Oak (*Quercus alba*) and Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) are the dominant trees in the surrounding forest.

Habitat of south-facing outcrop adjacent to a creek. Photo by Rob Huntley.

Cactus plants are found scattered over much of the open rock, mostly on the upper third of the slope toward the crest of the hill. Plants, or small colonies, typically consist of 4 - 20 pads (or cladodes) rooted in the moss and lichen mats. As the common name indicates, the small pads will break off at the joints with the slightest touch and many individual pads can be seen scattered around the slope. Loose pads can survive for a long time before coming to rest at a favourable spot where they can root and establish. In the summer of 2003 we estimated the population to number more than 200 small colonies, including single pads. When plants are growing in the denser *Cladina* lichen patches it was difficult to tell whether the pads poking through the top of the lichens represented many individual plants or just one with its

connecting stems obscured by lichen.

A small plant growing with Cladina *sp. and* Polytricum *sp. Photo by Rob Huntley.*

The cactus appears to do very well in this inhospitable site. The summer sun bakes the exposed rocks and the winter snows do not accumulate. Soil, where it does accumulate, is thin and has little capacity to hold moisture. Yet the cactus seems to thrive in these harsh conditions. Small plants can be seen finding purchase in minute cracks and small patches of lichens and mosses. For the last five years, abundant new growth has been visible in early summer.

In spite of being observed for decades by many people, the wild "Kaladar cactus" has never been known to produce flowers. Cultivated plants have flowered, but even this is a rare occurrence. Without any seed production the plants at the Kaladar site seems to depend entirely on vegetative reproduction.

THE THREATS

Over the last two decades professionals and amateurs alike have expressed concern

that the "Kaladar cactus" is at risk. Its vulnerability to over-collecting by hobbyists, habitat degradation from human traffic, and to development threats are commonly pointed to. Insomuch as the site where it occurs is small, any one of these might easily obliterate the population.

The Over-Collecting Threat

Cacti and other succulent plants are extremely popular among horticulturists. Ones that are avidly sought after, can command high prices and, in the wild, are often vulnerable to over-collecting. Many species of cacti are protected from commercial exploitation by legislation, but that does not stop some people from collecting them. In spite of the open environment at the Kaladar site, the small prostrate plants are often obscured by surrounding vegetation and the site is not easily located. Cacti that rarely flower are sometimes cultivated, but these species are generally of unusual form or of large stature. Not only does obscurity offer some protection from unscrupulous collectors, but their recalcitrant flowering, un-possessing growth and inimical spines make them an unattractive target.

Over-collecting and/or vandalism have been blamed as the causes of a perceived drastic population decline in 1985. Detailed surveys of the site 10 years later and annual visits since 1999, found a strong and vigorous population. The actual cause of the decline might well have been either unintentional human activities, or disruption by wildlife (see below).

The Snowmobile Threat

In 2001 large portions in the middle of the main site showed considerable damage to the lichen-moss patches in which many cactus plants were growing. Patches were torn apart and overturned so that the cactus pads were often found under the lichens. This damage may have been caused by various means including, foraging bears, racoons and skunks. Wood Roaches and Five-lined Skinks are common under the vegetation mats and probably form a valuable source of food for these mammals. The patterns of damage across the outcrop, however, suggested that it might be the result of snowmobile traffic at a time when snow cover was minimal. The following year plants were recovering well and in 2003 there was little evidence of damage. Thus, although the main site is vulnerable to this type of damage, it appears that the population has the ability to recover as long as the damage is not repeated.

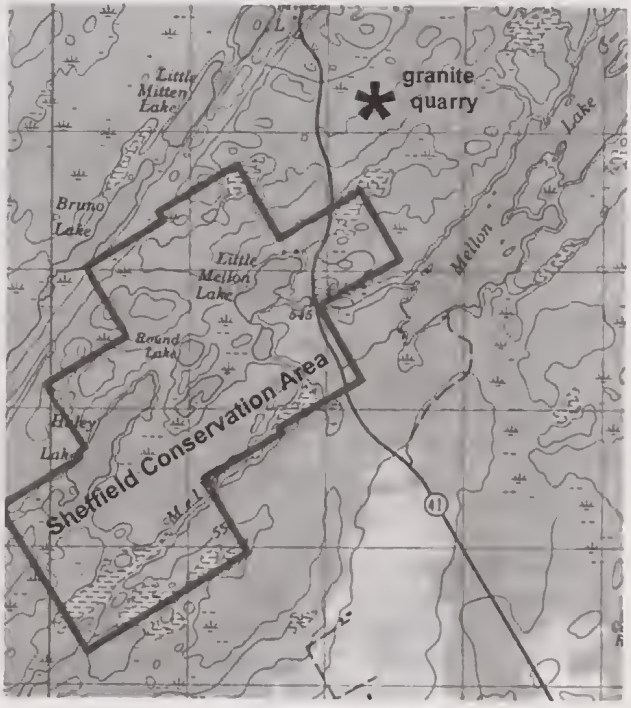
The *Day Tripper* Threat

The main outcrop which supports the cactus is adjacent to a small creek and near an old road bed. The old road provides access to the waterway where there is a crude boat launch. This is also an excellent spot for canoeists to stop when travelling between the larger lakes. Unfortunately the site is also close to a major highway and to parking areas. Litter and garbage, the inevitable by-products of human presence,

have accumulated in the area. Such material has the potential to smother or kill plants as well as generally damaging the habitat. Non-biodegradable or slowly disintegrating plastic or other petroleum products are particularly harmful. Some plants have been found covered with debris, but fortunately seem able to withstand a certain amount of these insults and were sometimes seen growing through and around the various paper products.

The Repeated Threat of Granite Mining

Another perceived threat to the cactus is that of granite mining. In March of 1999, the western Mellon Lake area, including the cactus site, was officially protected as the Sheffield Conservation Area, to be managed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) through the Quinte Conservation Authority under the Public Lands Act. The Act, however, provides only qualified protection for the cactus with conservation of biological resources secondary to economically important resources. The Act states in part: "Careful mining exploration may occur in specific new conservation reserves . . . in areas that have provincially significant mineral potential. If a portion of a new conservation reserve is to be developed for a mine, it will be removed from the reserve, and appropriate replacement lands will be placed under regulation."



Map of the location of the cactus colony, conservation area and quarry site.

Surrounding the Sheffield Conservation Area is a region that has been designated as a Conservation Reserve which contains a high diversity and concentration of ecologically significant plants and animals. The Palu-Corbelli Corporation, a Toronto based mining company, staked claims within this Conservation Reserve under the *Aggregate Resources Act* three weeks prior to the

official protection of the area and in March 2000 applied for a permit to extract granite. The first permit was denied because the company failed to respond to concerns expressed by opponents. Permission was, however, given to carry out "bulk sampling" and a significant amount of "dimensional stone" was blasted out of the site and shipped to Italy for processing into counter tops. Under the Act, companies may continue to reapply for permits, so Palu-Corbelli submitted the same application for a second time. In August 2002, the permit was again denied because the company failed to meet a series of required conditions. In February 2003 a third application was made and is currently (May 2005) still under review. It is reported that over 900 protest letters have been forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Granite quarry site. Photo by Rob Huntley.

In the summer of 2003 all exploratory work had been completed and the site "cleaned up." This appears to be a relative term since, apart from the access road, there were still many granite blocks piled at the site, large amounts of blasted rubble and a vertical cliff, about 6 - 8 metres high at the quarry's face. Fortunately, the quarry currently occupies an area where the cactus has never been found. If the operations are expanded to other granite balds to the south, it is possible that mining or associated extraction activities will have a detrimental impact on the cactus population.

It should be noted that granite is the basic bedrock of the Canadian Shield and is at or near the surface over millions of hectares of Ontario. Why the MNR has given any consideration to mining activity within a conservation reserve for such a

ubiquitous resource is a mystery.

THE FUTURE

So what is the likely prognosis for the long-term survival of this unique eastern Ontario cactus population? From recent observations and evaluation of impact of four types of threat, it appears that the "Kaladar cactus" is very suited to the environment of the open granite balds in the Kaladar Hills. It is unlikely that the cactus faces serious threats from collecting, but the small size of the population makes it vulnerable to the various disturbances from human activities in the area. Disturbances associated with boating and snowmobile traffic, including littering and trampling, are a threat, but have not yet caused serious harm. Disturbances associated with construction and development of the nearby highway and granite mining are a hazard, but may be far enough away that effects on the population will be minimal. Perhaps the most profound effects on the population might be incurred from natural processes such as shading from other vegetation or an intense forest fire. Given the geography of the actual site, both these natural processes are considered to have a low probability.

Disturbances to the population have occurred in the past few years, but the cactus has shown sufficient recuperative abilities to survive and flourish through these minor setbacks. Barring uncontrollable catastrophic events, the survival of the Kaladar cactus population would seem to be secure for the foreseeable future.

Readers may wish to express their comments and opinions on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources permitting extraction activities within the Puzzle Lake Conservation Reserve, or any Ontario parks and conservation lands by writing to:

The Honourable David Ramsay
6th Floor, Room 6630
Whitney Block
99 Wellesley St. W.
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3

In Praise of Treewatching Hotspots

Justin Peter

Although we are accustomed to hearing of *birding hotspots*, places where we can expect to see a large number of "quality" birds in a given day, it is not so often that we hear of good places to look at "quality" trees. While it doesn't seem to have the immediate and self-evident appeal of birding, tree study—or "treewatching" as I like to call it—can be an equally fulfilling and a remarkably invigorating experience. In fact, even as a lifelong birder, I am frequently disposed to set aside the often fleeting moments of birding in order to contemplate the beauty of trees; those still, enduring, and silent witnesses to much that has happened to the landscape over time.

Hunting for trees in the landscape and challenging oneself to identify them by sight from a distance can have as much excitement as identifying a rare bird one has never seen before. More importantly, trees, by virtue of their oft-times finicky habitat preferences and the great ages they can attain, are able to tell us a lot about the landscape and how it has changed around them. They are thus a portal to the past and are among the best "natural historians" around! It is for this reason that trees have been able to compete successfully with birds for my attention.

Over the years, I've been fortunate to find many good places to go treewatching. Perhaps one of the best areas I have found so far is the Rockcliffe Air Base (CFB Ottawa North) in east-end Ottawa and the lands adjacent to it. This military base is a sprawling, mixed residential/institutional area. Originally developed in the first quarter of the 20th century, many of the residential and institutional buildings close to the National Research Council have been retired and demolished over the last ten years. From a development perspective, these parcels of land sit largely vacant. Yet despite the comings and goings of buildings, the one element that has remained surprisingly constant (in some sections) are the trees, some of which seem highly representative of the original forest that once blanketed the area. This applies to many of the trees in the area bounded to the west by Polaris Avenue and to the south by Via Venus, as well as those near the baseball diamond at the corner of Polaris Avenue and Hemlock Road.

These trees were originally forest trees that were tamed during development. The understory of the original forest was apparently completely cleared in some parts and many, if not most, of the canopy trees were cut. The remaining clumps of trees or lone individuals show that they "grew up" in the forest—with their long trunks and

Figure 1. This magnificent Bitternut Hickory near Cottage Row is typical by its towering irregular form, by its "dented" and lopsided crown, as well as its unruly and oftentimes sinuous twigs, which are much more obvious in the winter. This specimen's trunk is 28 inches (70 cm) in diameter at breast height (big!), and is just one of several relict bitternuts present on the grounds of the Rockcliffe Air Base. (Photo: Justin Peter).

stretched out crowns—but are now left stranded in the open. The development that originally stranded these trees has made many of them landmarks, often particularly easy on the eyes. By reducing the amount of competition, the individual trees had the opportunity to branch out and fill in while retaining an elegant forest-form. Thus to visit some of these areas, especially Burma Road north of Via Venus, is to see what may be the closest thing to a natural arboretum: tall trees with forest-grown forms; some clumped; some standing alone; and all affording the opportunity to hone one's tree identification skills. Among the many relict trees are several classics; trees whose forms are so typical of their respective species that they look as though they might have served as the templates for the tree silhouette drawings in R.C. Hosie's excellent book *Native Trees of Canada*. Included is a fairly high concentration of relatively uncommon species such as Rock Elm (*Ulmus thomasii*), Slippery Elm (*Ulmus rubra*) and Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*) (Figure 1), as well as beautiful examples of the more common Basswood (*Tilia americana*), Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) and White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*). For anyone endeavouring to sharpen one's eyes and mind in order to know our native trees better, the specimens here provide excellent opportunity for practice!

One might however ask: how does getting familiar with "idealized" trees such as those at the Rockcliffe Air Base help to more easily identify average trees growing in wilder locales? In my experience, careful and disciplined contemplation of classic specimens, identified initially by the leaves, allows one to gradually pick out that species' most typical characteristics, and apply them to just about any other individual of that species. The fundamental traits are usually conserved even in the most dishevelled or storm-ravaged trees. Whether it be the species' typical crown shape, branching or limb pattern, outline, shade of green, twig colour or arrangement, or a combination of all of these traits, with practice, these same traits can all be picked out at a distance, even while observing trees growing in crowded forests, or while driving down Highway 416 or up Highway 5! And occasionally, just as with birding, one will come across a single individual that doesn't conform to one's expectations (Figure 2). These cases challenge the treewatcher to keep a flexible mind and to always look twice.

The future of these great trees at Rockcliffe Air Base is uncertain. Plans are underway to redevelop this area, and one can only hope that the next developer will tread as lightly as the last. With some foresight, a legacy of tree retention similar to the great oaks of Toronto's Forest Hill can be ensured, and allow us to enjoy the trees for years to come. In the interim, these trees are still here to enjoy. So if the post-migration (or pre-migration) birding period has left you looking for a challenge, pack a light snack, your binoculars, a note pad and your tree field guide and visit the Rockcliffe Air Base lands* for a half-day treewatching excursion!

* The area featured in this article is accessible from the south by Codd's Road (via Montreal Road) and from the west by Hemlock Road (via St-Laurent Boulevard or the Aviation Parkway).

Figure 2. This outstanding Rock Elm grows in a woodlot at the National Research Council. With a diameter of 24 inches (60 cm) at breast height, it is certainly among the region's biggest, and is likely one of the even fewer ones growing in a forest environment. Most large Rock Elms that have survived Dutch Elm Disease or Phloem Necrosis—two serious diseases of our native elms—grow in pastures or other open areas and naturally have branches arching downwards along the full length of the trunk. Due to its competitive woodland environment, this specimen's lowest branches begin about 30 feet up. Prior to identifying it as a Rock Elm, this "branch-free trunk" appearance had me thinking that it was a forest-grown American [or White] Elm (Ulmus americana). (Photo: Justin Peter)

Step Softly: Environmental Stewardship

Marilyn H. S. Light

Spring is in the air! Native orchid enthusiasts are gearing up for another year of discovery and enjoyment of their favourite blooming beauties. Photographers are hoping to find the species that eluded them previously. Others, including myself, are looking forward to initiating or continuing long term tracking studies. Now is a good time to consider the relative impact of all those feet on the orchids and their environment.

Believe me, even one person moving carefully through the forest has an impact. Several people following in those same footsteps multiplies the trampling effect. Damage to fragile ecosystems such as bogs and fens may be more quickly apparent but all habitats are vulnerable to foot traffic. Ironically, it is the recent popularity of the "great outdoors" that exacerbates the problem. The very orchids that interest us may disappear as a result of our forays unless we consider the impact of what we do (Penskar and Higman 2000; Meleg 2003). Studies in Finland, Ireland and Switzerland have measured the effect of trampling on forest trees, tree seedlings, ground cover plants and on the soil microbial community. The first plants to disappear are tender herbs like mosses. "With only minimal trampling, 20 peatland species are lost" (MacGowan 1996). In a Finnish study, the microbial community structure of the humus layer in an urban forest was affected by a cascade of events beginning with trampling then extending to changes in vegetation and litter quality which ultimately affected humus pH (Malmivaara-Lämäsa and Fritze, 2003). The Swiss study by Waltert et al. (2002) investigated the impact of trampling on the mycorrhizal roots of seedling and mature trees. Not only did they report that trampling caused considerable damage to forest floor vegetation, but it especially affected seedling trees and their mycorrhizal fine roots.

We do not yet have a measure of the indirect effect of trampling on orchids but there are reports of the deleterious effect of leaf damage and removal. When leaves of *Dactylorhiza maculata* (Timmins Orchid or Spotted Orchid) and *Tipularia discolor* (Canefly Orchis) were removed in whole or in part experimentally, plants became progressively smaller and were less likely to flower the following year (Whigham 1990; Vallius and Salonen 2000). Effects of human visitation and touch on plant growth and herbivory have been documented for species other than orchids (Cahill

Jr. et al. 2002; Hik et al. 2003). Because we do not yet know enough about the impact of human visitation on orchids, we must minimize disturbance when we visit sites to photograph or otherwise study them. We must take care.

So how do we minimize any damage we may cause?

A **Consider the habitat and its relative fragility**. Wetlands are especially vulnerable and should be visited with great caution and preferably not in large groups.

B **Consider the orchid and its rarity**. While we may want to see the "rare" ones, it might be best to leave a fragile site or a small population completely undisturbed. When in doubt, please don't.

C **Consider the orchid and its ecosystem**. Orchids do not live in isolation. They have a complex life cycle and a reliance on particular habitat conditions to survive. Human visitation can lead to soil compaction, changes to the soil microflora and loss of vulnerable species.

D **Walk softly and carefully**. Even common orchids like the Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) deserve our consideration and respect if we expect to learn something meaningful about their behaviour. Ever since I began a study in 1985, I have limited my visits to the absolute minimum needed to gather data, walked on exposed rocks wherever possible to minimize disturbance, and resisted moving companion plants that were spoiling my view. I wear running shoes which are less potentially damaging than hiking boots.

E **Be an exemplary environmental steward**. Stay on paths and walkways where they are provided and especially where the park respectfully requests that you do so.

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Seedathon 2005

Chris Lewis

The OFNC Seedathon has been an annual event since its inception in 1981. It has continued to be an exceptionally successful way to raise funds for the purchase of bird seed for the Club's bird feeders, thanks to the many generous sponsors, and the dedicated volunteers who maintain the feeders.

This year, on Sunday September 4, 2005, our team (Bob Bracken, Bernie Ladouceur and Chris Lewis) will once again enthusiastically hit the "trails and landscapes" of the 50 km radius of Ottawa-Gatineau to find as many bird species as we can within a 24-hour period.

As so many OFNC members and others were so generous with their pledges last year, we have decided to give your bank accounts a break this time around, i.e. we will *not* be conducting a full-out fund-raising drive with phone calls to previous sponsors. However, if you would like to make a pledge, please note the following:

Pledges can be made as a flat amount, or an amount per species. FOR EXAMPLE: you can pledge $10.00 "flat" . . . or . . . 10 cents per species (which would amount to $10.00 if we find 100 species). But ANY amount is appreciated—every little bit helps, to keep the feeders full and the birds well-fed during our long cold winter months!

You can either phone in your pledge to Chris Lewis at (613) 722-5929 or Bob Bracken at (613) 728-3495, OR e-mail us at *hagenius@primus.ca*. PLEASE include your name, mailing address (including postal code), and your phone number or e-mail address. This is all important information, in order for us to follow-up on pledges, as well as send you an acknowledgement and full report of our day. If you require a tax receipt (for pledges of $10.00 or more), please indicate this as well.

For more information about the Seedathon, including maps and directions to the OFNC bird feeders, visit the Club's web site and go to the birding page at *www.ofnc.ca.*

Summer Birds of Blue Sea Lake, Québec, Revisited

Stephen A. Nesbitt

Ira N. Gabrielson published two articles on the birds he observed in the vicinity of Blue Sea Lake, Québec, in the 1930s and 40s (Gabrielson 1938, Gabrielson 1949). In addition to his own observations, he quoted unpublished information from other authorities that spent time in the area, notably P. A. Taverner, H. Lloyd, and R. M. Anderson. Their notes on the birds of the area went back to the early years of the 20th century. The centre of Gabrielson's exploration of the region's birds was his family summer vacation cottage on Big Island in Blue Sea Lake. Ira Gabrielson was my maternal grandfather, and it was my good fortune to spend every summer with him at this cabin until 1961, and periodically after that until his death in 1977. He and I spent many mornings during those summers birding on Big Island, as well as other favourite spots around the lake. Upon my grandparents' passing, my siblings and I inherited the cottage and we have used the cottage regularly since.

In light of the concern for population changes in neotropical migratory birds, I thought it might be enlightening to revisit the areas where he did his earlier birding some 50 years after he made his initial observations. I spent between 10 and 21 days each year, during the period of late June to early August, at Blue Sea Lake from 1994 to 1996, and in 1999, 2001, and 2003. Because I spent many hours birding with my grandfather I was familiar with all the areas mentioned in his articles, so it was possible to revisit many of these same sites. He included both spring and fall records and also travelled some 100 km north of Blue Sea Lake. I limit my comments to the summer period and to the species found on the forested islands and lake edge, within 2 km of the lake.

Blue Sea Lake is located in the Gatineau River region of southwestern Québec. It is 110 km north of Ottawa, Ontario, and 16 km south of Maniwaki, near the town of Messines. The lake is a typical oligotrophic lake of the Boreal Shield Ecozone, with an abrupt rocky shoreline. The vegetation of the islands and the lakeshore are largely as my grandfather described them in 1938. Recent thunderstorms and winter blow-downs have opened more areas to earlier successional stage vegetation than was present on Big Island in the earlier period. Because development of the islands is restricted by lot size and proximity to the shore, there are now only a few more

cabins around the islands than there were in the 1940s, however, development has occurred along portions of the mainland.

The survey techniques I used were unsystematic, but were similar to those used by my grandfather, which consisted of early morning walking trips looking and listening for birds in the manner of recreational birding. Birds seen or heard incidentally while fishing or during daily chores around the cottage were also noted. I assigned a term for the relative abundance to the species in Table 1 which were based on an earlier assessment of abundance and my current observations. *Rare* refers to species that were seen or mentioned once or twice during the multiple years of observation, *occasional* refers to species encountered periodically (not daily), *regularly seen* refers to species detected on a daily basis, and *common* denotes species seen multiple times a day.

It seems to me most appropriate to comment on those species with a change in assessed relative abundance that spanned more than a single categorical change (e.g. from rare to regularly seen). I feel it would be inappropriate to suppose that the rather simplistic approach used in these studies would be sufficient to assess, with any level of confidence, relatively minor changes in perceived abundance. Nevertheless, there have been some noticeable changes in the bird life of this area between the 1930s and 1940s and the late 1990s (Table 1). Cormorants, Ring-billed Gulls, Common Terns, Turkey Vultures, and Pine Warblers were absent in the prior period, but are now on the lake with some frequency. Red-shouldered Hawks, Whip-poor-wills, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, House Wrens, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Nashville, Bay-breasted, Canada, and Mourning Warblers, were ranked occasional or regularly seen in the prior period, but were not detected during recent years. The occurrence of the Spotted Sandpiper, Common Raven, Veery, Black-throated Green Warbler and Song Sparrow increased from rare or occasional to common. Eastern Phoebes, though seen in the surrounding countryside, were not detected around the lake. The level of abundance of 14 species declined more than one level whereas abundance for 10 species increased by more than one level. Eleven species mentioned in the earlier reports were not detected on the lake in the latter period. Five species not noted in the prior study were seen in recent years. It may be noteworthy that most of the species for which the abundance ranking declined from the earlier survey period were species known to winter from Central America south into South America, whereas those for which rankings increased or remained the same wintered (or at least a portion of their populations wintered) farther north. With the exceptions noted, the abundance of most of the species mentioned by my grandfather has remained relatively the same after more than 50 years. The one constant in the area seems to be the stability of the habitat. Big Island and a good deal of the wooded habitats in the vicinity of Blue Sea Lake have changed little since those first observations. The area is still

dominated by a mixture of mature northern forests, and if this habitat remains, perhaps these species will remain in the same relative numbers 50 years from now.

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Stephen A. Nesbitt, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Gainesville Wildlife Research Laboratory, 4005 South Main Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601 USA.

Table 1. Relative abundance of birds seen at Blue Sea Lake, Québec, Canada during two survey periods: 1937-1947 and 1994-2003. Rare= species seen or mentioned once or twice during the multiple years of observation. Occasional = species encountered periodically (not daily). Regularly seen = species detected on a daily basis. Common = species seen multiple times a day.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Relative Abundance	
		1937-1947	1994-2003
Branta canadensis	Canada Goose	Migration only	Not detected*
Anas rubripes	American Black Duck	Regularly seen	Regularly seen
Lophodytes cucullatus	Hooded Merganser	Regularly seen	Occasional
Mergus merganser	Common Merganser	Common	Common
Bonasa umbellus	Ruffed Grouse	Occasional	Occasional
Gavia immer	Common Loon	Common	Common
Phalacrocorax auritus	Double-crested Cormorant	Not mentioned	Occasional
Botaurus lentiginosus	American Bittern	Rare	Not detected
Ixobrychus exilis	Least Bittern	Rare	Not detected

Scientific Name	Common Name	Relative Abundance	
		1937-1947	1994-2003
Ardea herodias	Great Blue Heron	Occasional	Regularly seen
Cathartes aura	Turkey Vulture	Not mentioned	Regularly seen
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	Rare	Not seen
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	Rare	Not seen
Circus cyaneus	Northern Harrier	Rare	Rare
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's Hawk	Rare	Not detected
Accipiter striatus	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Rare	Rare
Buteo lineatus	Red-shouldered Hawk	Occasional	Not detected
Buteo platypterus	Broad-winged Hawk	Regularly seen	Regularly seen
Faico columbarius	Merlin	Rare	Rare
Faico sparverius	Kestrel	Occasional	Regularly seen
Actitis macularia	Spotted Sandpiper	Occasional	Regularly seen
Larus philadelphia	Bonaparte's Gull	Rare	Not detected
Larus delawarensis	Ring-billed Gull	Not mentioned	Common
Larus argentatus	Herring Gull	Occasional	Occasional
Sterna hirundo	Common Tern	Not mentioned	Regularly seen
Strix varia	Barred Owl	Rare	Not detected
Asio otus	Long-eared Owl	Not mentioned	Rare
Chordeiles minor	Night Hawk	Occasional	Occasional
Caprimulgus vociferus	Whip-poor-will	Occasional	Not detected
Chaetura pelagica	Chimney Swift	Regularly seen	Occasional

Scientific Name	Common Name	Relative Abundance	
		1937-1947	1994-2003
Archilochus colubris	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Regularly seen	Regularly seen
Ceryle alcyon	Belted Kingfisher	Regularly seen	Regularly seen
Sphyrapicus varius	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Occasional	Not detected
Picoides pubescens	Downy Woodpecker	Regularly seen	Occasional
Picoides villosus	Hairy Woodpecker	Regularly seen	Occasional
Colaptes auratus	Northern Flicker	Regularly seen	Regularly seen
Dryocopus pileatus	Pileated Woodpecker	Regularly seen	Regularly seen
Contopus cooperii	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Rare	Not detected
Contopus virens	Eastern Wood Pewee	Common	Common
Empidonax flaviventris	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Rare	Not detected
Empidonax minumus	Least Flycatcher	Rare	Not Detected
Sayornis phoebe	Eastern Phoebe	Regularly seen	Not detected
Myiarchus crinitus	Great Crested Flycatcher	Regularly seen	Regularly seen
Vireo olivaceus	Red-eyed Vireo	Common	Common
Vireo philadelphicus	Philadelphia Vireo	Rare	Not detected
Cyanocitta cristata	Blue Jay	Occasional	Common
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American Crow	Occasional	Occasional
Corvus corax	Common Raven	Rare	Common
Progne subis	Purple Martin	Rare	Not detected

Scientific Name	Common Name	Relative Abundance	
		1937-1947	1994-2003
Tachycineta bicolor	Tree Swallow	Occasional	Not detected
Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	Cliff Swallow	Rare	Not detected
Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow	Common	Common
Poecile atricapillus	Black-capped Chickadee	Common	Common
Sitta canadensis	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Common	Common
Sitta carolinensis	White-breasted Nuthatch	Occasional	Rare
Certhia americana	Brown Creeper	Occasional	Occasional
Troglodytes aedon	House Wren	Regularly seen	Not detected
Troglodytes troglodytes	Winter Wren	Occasional	Regularly seen
Regulus satrapa	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Occasional	Not detected
Catharus fuscescens	Veery	Occasional	Common
Catharus minimus	Gray-checked Thrush	Rare	Rare
Catharus ustulatus	Swainson's Thrush	Common	Common
Catharus guttatus	Hermit Thrush	Rare	Rare
Turdus migratorius	American Robin	Common	Common
Dumetella carolinensis	Gray Catbird	Occasional	Rare
Toxostoma rufum	Brown Thrasher	Rare	Not detected

Scientific Name	Common Name	Relative Abundance	
		1937-1947	1994-2003
Bombycilla cedrorum	Cedar Waxwing	Common	Common
Vermivora peregrina	Tennessee Warbler	Rare	Rare
Vermivora ruficapilla	Nashville Warbler	Occasional	Not detected
Parula americana	Northern Parula	Regularly Seen	Common
Dendroica petechia	Yellow Warbler	Occasional	Regularly Seen
Dendroica pensylvanica	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Common	Rare
Dendroica magnolia	Magnolia Warbler	Occasional	Rare
Dendroica tigrina	Cape May Warbler	Rare	Rare
Dendroica caerulescens	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Common	Common
Dendroica coronata	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Occasional	Common
Dendroica virens	Black-throated Green Warbler	Occasional	Common
Dendroica fusca	Blackburnian Warbler	Occasional	Occasional
Dendroica pinus	Pine Warbler	Not mentioned	Regularly Seen
Dendroica castanea	Bay Breasted Warbler	Rare	Not detected
Dendroica striata	Blackpoll Warbler	Rare	Occasional
Mniotilta varia	Black-and-White Warbler	Common	Common
Setophaga ruticilla	American Redstart	Common	Regularly Seen
Seiurus aurocapillus	Ovenbird	Common	Common

Scientific Name	Common Name	Relative Abundance	
		1937-1947	1994-2003
Seiurus noveboracensis	Northern Water-thrush	Regularly Seen	Regularly Seen
Oporornis philadelphia	Mourning Warbler	Occasional	Not detected
Geothlypis trichas	Common Yellowthroat	Occasional	Occasional
Wilsonia canadensis	Canada Warbler	Occasional	Not detected
Piranga olivacea	Scarlet Tanager	Rare	Rare
Spizella passerina	Chipping Sparrow	Common	Common
Melospiza melodia	Song Sparrow	Occasional	Common
Zonotrichia albicollis	White-throated Sparrow	Common	Common
Junco hyemalis	Dark-eyed Junco	Rare	Not detected
Pheucticus ludovicianus	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Occasional	Not detected
Passerina cyanea	Indigo Bunting	Regularly Seen	Rare
Agelaius phoeniceus	Red-winged Blackbird	Occasional	Common
Molothrus ater	Brown-headed Cowbird	Rare	Not detected
Icterus galbula	Baltimore Oriole	Rare	Not detected
Carpodacus purpureus	Purple Finch	Rare	Not detected
Carduelis tristis	American Goldfinch	Common	Common

*150-200 Canada Geese seen 17-19 June 2003 but were gone by 22 June.

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.
For further information,
call the Club number (722-3050).

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: *Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (Payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. In order for the Club to offer a bus trip, we need just over 33 people to register. If fewer than 30 register, we have the option of cancelling the trip or increasing the cost. Such decisions must be done a week in advance so we encourage anyone who is interested in any bus trip to register as early as possible. We also wish to discourage postponing the actual payment of bus fees until the day of the event.*

EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE: *The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation, and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities.*

BIRD STATUS LINE: *Phone 860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings use the 860-9000 number and stay on the line. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

Sunday
10 July
8:50 a.m.

JOIN MEMBERS OF DRAGONFLY SOCIETY OF AMERICA TO EXPLORE LOCAL DRAGONFLY AND DAMSELFLY DIVERSITY

Leaders: Experts from across North America

Meet: at the Arnprior Quality Inn (70 Madawaska Blvd., # 27 on the website "townmap" *http://www.arnprior.ca* Click on "community" for the map).

This is a fantastic one-time opportunity for OFNC members to join in on Dragonfly Society of America outings. You will have a choice of joining any one of several groups that are exploring different area wetlands for dragonflies and damsel-flies. These are all-day outings so bring a lunch and be pre-pared for wading in wet environments.

Please register at the Club number (722-3050). If you have any questions about what to expect from the day, call Jeff Skevington at 832-1970.

Sunday
31 July
9:00 a.m.
to
noon

GENERAL INTEREST WALK
MONAGHAN FOREST TRAIL, NEPEAN

Leader: Connie Clark

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road.

Monaghan Forest is little known, yet it is less than 20 minutes from Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre by car. It contains many different kinds of trees, flowers, bugs, butterflies, ferns and mosses. Within its small area lie a wetland, a meadow (which is usually very rich in butterflies and other insects), a coniferous wood and a deciduous wood.

Please Note: some mosquitoes may still be around and Poison Ivy occurs alongside some of the trails.

Thursday
4 August
10:00 a.m.

HISTORICAL WALK AND TALK IN LAROSE FOREST

Leaders: Alexandra De Quimper and Christine Hanrahan
Meet: The Fletcher Wildlife Garden (or at 11:00 a.m. at the Grant cemetery in the Larose Forest on Grant Rd.).
Alexandra is a local historian with a special interest in Larose Forest. She has done extensive exploration of the old Grant Settlement that once existed in what is now Larose Forest. She will take us on a "Walk and Talk," pointing out where various buildings used to stand. History will come alive as we learn in vivid detail what life was like at the turn of the 20th century. We will start at the Grant Cemetery on Grant Rd. and walk to the old schooolhouse site where we will have lunch. The round trip walk will be 4 km in length. Along the way we will also be looking at the natural features of Larose Forest, the plants, birds, butterflies and whatever else might catch our eye. Wear comfortable shoes, bring mosquito repellent, lunch and if you wish, binoculars and field guides. The walk is limited to 12 participants.
Please register with Christine at 728-6953.

Saturday
6 August
8:30 a.m.
to
2:00 p.m.

GENERAL INTEREST WALK IN THE GATINEAU

Leader: Geof Burbidge and Susan Howell
Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road (or at the Gatineau Park Visitor Centre, Scott Rd. in Old Chelsea at 9:00 a.m.).
We shall car-pool and continue north on A5 to Parking Lot 15 (Carmen Trails). The walk in to Brown and Carmen Lakes is easy, and it will be an easy climb at the end of the trail for a spectacular view over the two lakes. Time permitting, we may investigate the marsh between the lakes. Great geology, lots of plants, maybe some late nesting birds or early migrants, and possible signs of large mammals could be seen. Lunch will be at Carmen Lake overlook.

Sunday
14 August
9:00 a.m.

SUMMER DAMSELS AND DRAGONS
Leaders: Bob Bracken and Cristina Lewis
Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot at Richmond Rd. & Assaly Rd.
During this half-day outing we will visit two local "hot spots" for these prehistoric insects, beginning in the Britannia Conservation Area where 54 species of odonates (damselflies and dragonflies) have been recorded over the last 10 years. We will proceed to the Bruce Pit on Cedarview Rd., where many special (and surprising!) species have also been recorded. We will also explore other aspects of natural history along the way. Bring a snack and beverage, as well as an insect net and hand-lens if you have them. Field guides will be available to assist with identification. If the weather is inclement (i.e. persistent or heavy rain), the trip is cancelled.

Saturday
10 September
9:00
to
noon

FALL FLOWERS
Leader: Albert Dugal
Meet: Giant Tiger parking lot, northeast corner of Blossom Park Shopping Centre, west side of Bank Street, 2.2 km past Hunt Club Road. The last street before the shopping centre is Queensdale St.
Mainly Asters and Goldenrods brighten old fields and woodlands in the fall and the various species can be hard to tell apart. Albert will try to help us sort them out as well as other fall-blooming species or other plants of interest. We shall be visiting several habitats in the neighborhood. Waterproof footwear is suggested. Rain will cancel this trip. If the weather is questionable, or for more information, call Albert at 821-1236.

Sunday
11 September
8:00 a.m.

FALL MIGRANTS
Leader: Bernie Ladouceur
Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road.
We will likely be heading west of Ottawa, with stops at Britannia, Ottawa Beach, Shirleys Bay, etc. If other places have been producing good birds, we may switch at the last minute and head elsewhere.

Tuesday **13 September** **7:00 p.m.** **Social & Club business** **Presentations** **7:30 p.m.**	**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING** **MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT** **Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets. **Admission**: At least one natural history slide or a digital presentation or **$2** donation to the Alfred Bog Fund. Many of us take pictures on Club outings or on our own, and this is our opportunity to share some special natural history shots with fellow members. The mix of different topics and different voices makes for an enjoyable evening. Bring your favourite or most recent photography of plants, animals, birds, insects, scenery, etc. (15 images max). We can handle slide and most digital presentations but check with us first about whether you might need to bring your own laptop (e.g., Macintosh users) or whether a CD (most IBM users) would suffice. We would like you to speak briefly about your images, but that is not a requirement. Please contact Fenja Brodo (723-2054) to prearrange your presentation.

Saturday **17 September** **9:30 a.m.** **to** **1:00 p.m.**	**GEOLOGY ALONG THE AYLMER SIDE OF THE OTTAWA RIVER** **Leader:** Geoff Burbidge and Susan Howell **Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road (or at 10:00 a.m. at the Rapides-Deschênes NCC parking lot on Lucerne (Lower Aylmer Rd.) - turn left immediately after crossing the Champlain Bridge into Québec, Rapides-Deschênes lot is the second on the left). We will look at exposures of stromatolites on the dry bed of the Ottawa River, and work our way west along the bike path, examining the many large landscape blocks of local limestone and other sedimentary rock, and other exposures of bedrock and float (loose rock) along the way. Many fascinating sedimentary structures, as well as metamorphic and igneous features and some general aspects of the bedrock geology will be carefully explained to the best of the leader's ability. Total walking distance (all flat) will be not more than 2 km. Lunch at the shoreline exposure at the foot of Vanier Avenue. Bring a magnifying glass (hand lens) and a penknife if you have them.

Saturday
24 September
9:00 a.m.

MIGRATORY BIRDS AND GENERAL NATURAL HISTORY TRIP TO THE GATINEAU HILLS

Leaders: Carolyn Callaghan and Jeff Skevington

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road. (Or, follow the directions below for meeting at the farm at 10:00 a.m. Join Carolyn and Jeff on a trip to Carolyn's farm in the Gatineau Hills. The farm has a variety of habitats, including hardwood forest, mixed wood forest, riparian, pasture, and hay fields.

The focus of the trip will be migratory birds and general natural history. We'll be looking for birds as well as mammals, insects, and plants as they prepare for winter. We will also discuss beneficial management practices for wildlife on farmland. Bring a lunch, a drink and suitable clothing for the weather. (Directions: Take Hwy 5 North to Tulip Valley. Turn left on 105 at the Tulip Valley traffic lights. Continue on 105 past the entrance to Wakefield. Exit left onto Hwy 366. Continue along 366 for approximately 15 km (you will pass the town of Masham). Turn right at the flashing lights onto Chemin Cleo Fornier. Travel 3 km to Chemin Monte Belisle. Turn left onto Ch. Monte Belisle (road is called Chemin Rene Levesque to the east). Travel for 1 km and turn left at #45 (white farm house at the base of a hill).

Saturday
1 October
8:15 a.m.

BIRD BANDING BANDING AT INNIS POINT

Leader: Eve Ticknor and Marilyn Ward

Meet: Lincoln Heights Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road.

Special arrangements have been made for a visit to the Bird Banding Station at Innes Point for the first 20 people who register at the Club phone, 722-3050. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

Tuesday	**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**
11 October	**INDONESIA, A HISTORY LIKE NO OTHER...**
7:00 p.m.	**ISLANDS OF SPICE, ANCIENT LAKES, ENDEMIC**
Social & Club	**SPECIES, HUMAN DISTURBANCES AND**
business	**EARTHQUAKES**
	Speaker: Paul Hamilton
7:30 p.m.	**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Muscum of Nature, Metcalfe
Speaker	and McLeod Streets.
	Paul from the Canadian Museum of Nature, his colleagues from the University of Windsor and thc Indonesian Institute of Sciences LIPI have been examining a series of ancient lakes from the region of Wallacea over the last six years. This region is recognized as one of the top biodiversity hotspots in the world and Paul will present a range of topics from earth quakes to endemic species, all of which contain common links of global significance.

Saturday	**ANNUAL FALL BIRD COUNT**
15 October	The annual fall bird count covers the entire Ottawa-
3:00 p.m.	Gatineau birding area (a 50 km radius from the Peace
to	Tower on Parliament Hill).
Sunday	For those interested in counting birds on the Ontario side,
16 October	please contact Eve Ticknor at (613) 737-7551 or email
3:00 p.m.	*sandbird@magma.ca*. To participate on the Québec side, you may contact Daniel St-Hilaire at (819) 776-0860 or email *savannarum@videotron.ca*.

DEADLINE: *Material intended for the October - December issue must be in the editor's hands by August 1, 2005. Mail your manuscripts to:*

Karen McLachlan Hamilton
2980 Moodie Drive, Nepean, ON, K2J 4S7
H: (613) 838-4943
email: *hamilton@storm.ca*.

ANY ARTICLES FOR TRAIL & LANDSCAPE?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Write up your thoughts and send them to Trail & Landscape. We accept email, diskettes and CDs, or submissions in traditional form- typed, written, or printed.

URL of our site: *www.ofnc.ca*

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